ORIGINAL PAPERS

RELATIVE TO THE

ESTABLISHMENT

OF A

SOCIETY IN BENGAL,

FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE

ORPHANS OF OFFICERS

DYING IN INDIGENT CIRCUMSTANCES,

AND ALSO OF

THE CHILDREN OF NON-COMMISSIONED AND PRIVATE EUROPEANS

BELONGING TO THE

EAST-INDIA COMPANY's SERVICE,

WHETHER ORPHANS OR NOT:

SHEWING

THE RISE, PROGRESS, AND PRESENT STATE

OF

THAT CHARITABLE AND USEFUL INSTITUTION.

RESPECTFULLY ADDRESSED TO THE

HONOURABLE THE

COURT OF DIRECTORS

OF THE

EAST-INDIA COMPANY,

AND TO THE

GENERAL BODY OF PROPRIETORS.

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ADVERTISEMENT.

THE ſubſequent pages are publiſhed at the deſire of certain reſpectable gentlemen, warmly intereſted in the ſucceſs of the Bengal Orphan Society, with a view to the information of ſuch benevolent perſons among the Proprietors of the Eaſt-India Company as require only to be appriſed of the exiſtence of ſo uſeful and humane an inſtitution, in order to be ſtimulated to afford it every ſupport and countenance in their power.

It was judged that no narrative could yield a clearer or more comprehenſive view of the eſtabliſhment than what is exhibited in the following papers — Accordingly, they are here given in their original form, nothing more being added than what was neceſſary for connecting the ſeveral parts, and a few notes occaſionally offered in explanation or illuſtration of ſome particular paſſages.

ADVERTISEMENT.

Although moſt of the matter contained in theſe pages is already in the poſſeſſion of the Court of Directors, yet the preſent publication, comprehending whatever relates to the ſubject in one general and collected point of view, may, on that account, be ſomewhat uſeful to them whenever they ſhall reſolve to take the application of the Managers of the Society into conſideration.

A PLAN

A PLAN FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A FUND FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF THE ORPHANS of EUROPEAN OFFICERS,

The following ADDRESS *and* PROPOSALS *were first circulated throughout the Army of the Bengal Eſtabliſhment, in Auguſt*, 1782.

TO THE PUBLIC.

THE reputation of this ſettlement, for a generous attention to the various diſtreſſes and misfortunes to which humanity is incident, ſtands deſervedly ſo high, as to make it unneceſſary for the advocate in the cauſe of the helpleſs and unprotected orphan, to employ any of the pathetic topics in common uſe on ſimilar occaſions, in order to awake its compaſſion, or ſtimulate its charity.

The

The want of certain fixed funds or reſources for the maintenance of the Orphan Children of Officers dying in indigent circumſtances, has been ſo long a ſubject of complaint with the humane and thinking part of the community, that there is great reaſon to believe, that ſo charitable and uſeful an eſtabliſhment has been hitherto delayed, ſolely becauſe no plan for the beneficent purpoſe has yet been offered to the conſideration of the Public.

This perſuaſion prompted the reſolution of framing ſuch a ſet of propoſals, as being ſubmitted to the examination of the Public at large, and ſubſequently receiving the aſſent of the gentlemen of the army, might ſerve as the foundation of an inſtitution, which, in its infancy, muſt of neceſſity be imperfect, and ſuſceptible of conſiderable improvement.

The officers of the army, after yielding their formal concurrence to the firſt article of the annexed ſcheme, will be intitled to be regarded as the natural and perpetual patrons of the inſtitution.—In this capacity, they have a reaſonable claim to the exerciſe of thoſe ſuperintending, controlling, and elective powers, with which the propoſed plan inveſts them. To a participation in this authority it would be difficult (if not impoſſible) to deviſe the means of admitting ſuch gentlemen as, without being officers, may hereafter be actuated by motives of humanity and benevolence, to become voluntary donors or ſubſcribers to the fund. But it

may be ſafely preſumed, that perſons of this deſcription will be abundantly ſatisfied with the qualification which they will derive from their contributions, of being choſen governors and managers of the ſociety; offices which will preſent the true philanthropiſt with numerous occaſions of gratifying thoſe fine feelings, ſo honourable to himſelf, and beneficial to his ſpecies.

It is not to be doubted, but that the fixed contributions of the army, joined to the produce of immediate ſubſcriptions, and of future donations and bequeſts by humane and pious perſons, will, in a ſhort period, amount to a ſum more than adequate to the benevolent uſes ſpecified in the propoſed plan. In ſo deſirable an event, it will not be incompatible with the ſpirit of liberal charity, or the expanded principles of the inſtitution, ſhould the Society extend its protection and ſupport to a greater variety of diſtreſſed and helpleſs objects than muſt of neceſſity, in the beginning, excluſively engage their attention and care. *Such would be the orphans of perſons not officers, but ſettlers in Bengal: ſuch would be the orphans of officers belonging to the other eſtabliſhments of India: ſuch would be the offſpring of living officers, whoſe misfortunes or neceſſitous ſituation rendered them incapable of affording their children a ſuitable education and proviſion.*

All theſe, in the caſe ſuppoſed, would be objects intitled to participation in the beneficial effects of the projected inſtitution: but ſhould the reſources of the ſociety accumulate in any proportion to the ſanguine

ſanguine expectations of the promoters, *it will be enabled ere long to diffuſe happineſs and comfort throughout a ſtill more extenſive circle, and conſequently to exert itſelf ſtill more variouſly in the cauſe of humanity.*

In determining the military ſubſcriptions or general donation, it is hoped that the Gentlemen of the Army will readily acknowledge, that the propoſers have been governed by a due attention to their ſeveral ranks. The propoſed tax on their benevolence is ſo light, that it is manifeſtly impoſſible that the payment of it ſhould at any time be productive of the ſlighteſt inconvenience to them— It is not ſo, however, when ſubſcriptions are opened for the relief of particular Orphans; an expedient very frequently practiſed, and, without an inſtitution of the kind now recommended, abſolutely unavoidable. On ſuch occaſions, the generous ſpirit of the ſubſcriber not uncommonly prompts him to an effort of charity but ill ſuited to the ſtate of his finances. Hence ariſes a ſpecies of diſtreſs which Officers will no longer experience, when they ſhall have declared their acquieſcence in the plan now offered to their acceptance. To this it may be added, that their monthly contributions will not ultimately exceed their occaſional donations, while the former will yield them in return, the exquiſite ſatisfaction which muſt neceſſarily reſult from the reflection of being inſtrumental in the preſervation and felicity of hundreds, inſtead of adminiſtering, as before, to the relief of a few individuals only. — The conſideration, that by concurring in the pre-

ſent

ſent propoſal, they will ſecure to their own children (againſt all accidents) a certain proviſion, is too obvious, as well as too natural, to require ſuggeſtion. *But it is not, perhaps, ſo obvious a remark, that the early eſtabliſhment of ſuch a Society as is now recommended, would have operated to reconcile many a valuable Officer and deſerving Man to his diſſolution, whoſe laſt moments have been embittered by poignant and agonizing reflections, occaſioned by anxiety for the future fate of the deſtitute offspring which he was to leave behind him; and, we truſt, that it is impoſſible for a thought of this ſerious and affecting nature to preſent itſelf to the mind of any Officer, without creating in him an ardent deſire to promote the ſucceſs of the ſcheme before him to the utmoſt of his ability*

The immediate contributions in ſupport of the inſtitution will, it is hoped, be conſiderable enough to enable the Managers (who ſhall be appointed) to aſſume their truſt, and the guardianſhip of the numerous Orphans now in the country, without loſs of time. — If any other perſuaſives to a liberal ſubſcription, on the preſent occaſion, were requiſite, beſides thoſe which ſpontaneouſly ariſe in the breaſts of the humane and benevolent, it might be urged, that a general contribution or collection, at this juncture, would for ever preclude the neceſſity of future particular applications to the charity of the Settlement, which muſt unavoidably be exceeding frequent, till the eſtabliſhment of ſuch a fund as is now propoſed.

It may not be unneceſſary to obſerve, in explanation of the firſt article of the ſubſequent Propoſals, wherein no notice is taken of the ranks ſuperior to that of Major, that this omiſſion is grounded on the conſideration of their number and their ſituation; the former rendering the produce of their contributions, if rated proportionably with the reſt, an object of little or no moment; and the latter, making it very unlikely, that the children of any of them ſhould ever be compelled to have recourſe to the inſtitution for a maintenance. Hence it was judged moſt proper, that thoſe ranks ſhould be left to contribute to the ſupport of the propoſed eſtabliſhment by voluntary and diſcretional ſubſcriptions.

PROPO-

PROPOSALS.

I. THAT each Subaltern and Aſſiſtant Surgeon contribute monthly three Sicca rupees; each Captain and Surgeon, ſix; and each Major, nine *.

II. That, to prevent difficulty and expence in the collections, as well as to ſecure their amount againſt all accidents, the Officers conſent to the deduction of the ſpecified contributions from their monthly pay.

III. That, to this end, the ſeveral Paymaſters of the Army be inſtructed to account regularly with the Military Paymaſter General for all ſums accruing from ſuch deductions or ſtoppages; and that the Military Paymaſter General account quarterly with the Managers of the Society at Calcutta.

IV. That a Governor, a Deputy Governor, and twelve Managers, be appointed to conduct the buſineſs of the Society: The Deputy Governor, and

* To this article the following addition has been made: "That "the Orphans of Conductors of Ordnance be admitted to the benefits "of the inſtitution; and that a ſtoppage be made from the pay of "every Conductor (in the ſame manner that it is made from the "Officers of the Army) of half the amount allowed monthly by "Subalterns, for the purpoſes of this eſtabliſhment; and that if "Conductors be promoted to be Deputy Commiſſaries, or Com-"miſſaries of Ordnance, they ſhall contribute accordingly to the "fund, viz. as Subalterns, being Deputy Commiſſaries; and as "Captains, being Commiſſaries.

ſix of the Managers, to be reſidents of Calcutta; the other ſix Managers to be choſen from among the Officers who ſhall happen to be on duty at the Preſidency, and their places to be ſupplied (from the ſame body) by new election, as often as they ſhall become vacant.

V. That the Deputy Governor, and ſix Stationary Managers, be nominated, in the firſt inſtance, by the gentlemen voluntarily ſubſcribing to the ſupport of the inſtitution, on publication of theſe propoſals; but that, in future, they be choſen by the Society of Officers.

VI. That the ſix remaining Managers be elected by the Society at the ſame time that they vote their aſſent to theſe Propoſals; each brigade nominating two *.

VII. That the Deputy Governor be Treaſurer of the Society; but that he ſhall on no account iſſue any ſum or ſums, except by authority of an order, ſigned by two Managers at leaſt.

VIII. That the accounts and proceedings of the Management be at all times liable to the inſpection and control of the Society, either through the medium of the Brigade Committees, (herein after mentioned,) or otherwiſe, as the Society ſhall think proper.

IX. That there be a ſtanding or open Committee of ſix Officers inſtituted in each brigade of the

* The Brigade of Artillery has ſince claimed, and obtained, the privilege of giving two members to the Management.

Army,

Army, which ſhall ſit occaſionally on the buſineſs of the Society. It ſhall be the duty of theſe Committees to maintain the neceſſary correſpondence with the Managers at the Preſidency, to communicate to them ſuch regulations as the Society ſhall, from time to time, judge proper to eſtabliſh;—to nominate for admiſſion on the Foundation ſuch proper objects as their reſpective brigades ſhall eventually furniſh;—to collect and report the votes of the Officers (conſtituting the Society) on the election of a Deputy Governor or Manager, upon any vacancy occaſioned by death, reſignation, or removal;—and, laſtly, to call upon the Managers for copies of their proceedings and accounts, as often as they ſhall be directed ſo to do by the Society collectively *.

X. That, on any rule or reſolution for the government of the Society being propoſed and paſſed in one brigade by a majority of the general meeting, ſuch rule be tranſmitted by the Brigade Committee to the other brigades for their concurrence; which being obtained, the ſaid rule ſhall be forwarded to the Management at the Preſidency by the Committee of the brigade wherein ſuch regulation originated, and ſhall be conſidered as a reſolution of the Society at large.

XI. That the Management meet at leaſt once every month, and as oftener as ſhall be thought

* There has ſince been a ſimilar Committee inſtituted in the Brigade of Artillery.

neceſſary

neceſſary by the Deputy Governor or Preſident for the time being *.

XII. That no Orphan be admitted on the Foundation, who ſhall be poſſeſſed by inheritance, bequeſt, or otherwiſe, of a ſum exceeding five thouſand current rupees, or of an annuity yielding more than five hundred rupees.

XIII. That the truſtees or guardians of all Orphans making application for their admiſſion on the Foundation, be required to make affidavit before a Juſtice of the Peace, touching the true amount and value of the monies or eſtate which they hold in truſt for ſuch Orphans; to the end, that the Management, beſides being ſatisfied that they are proper objects of the inſtitution, may be enabled to judge what aſſiſtance they will need from the Society, when, their education being completed, the period ſhall arrive for ſettling them in the world. Theſe affidavits to be tranſmitted to the Management along with the application for admiſſion.

XIV. That no Orphans (for the preſent) be admitted on the Foundation, but ſuch as ſhall be the children of Officers or Surgeons belonging to the Bengal eſtabliſhment.

XV. That all Orphans now in the country, coming under the deſcription of qualification ſet forth in the XIIth and XIVth articles, be admitted on

* For ſeveral months after the firſt time of aſſembling, the Managers met once a week. Towards the end of the year 1783, it had become unneceſſary for them to meet more than twice a month,

the

the Foundation as ſoon as the Management ſhall judge the ſtate of the Fund equal to their maintenance*.

XVI. That all truſtees and guardians of Orphans be required to ſignify forthwith to the Management at the Preſidency, the names, ſex, and age of the children under their charge, who may be qualified for admiſſion on the Foundation.

XVII. That ſuch Orphans as, being qualified for admiſſion on the Foundation, may have been ſent to England, either during the life-time of their fathers, or after their deceaſe, by their guardians or truſtees, ſhall, on due application made by ſuch guardians or truſtees to the Management, or to their agents at home, be received upon the Foundation, and committed in the ſame manner as other Orphans to the charge of thoſe perſons in England, with whom the Management ſhall hereafter (agreeably to the XXIſt article of theſe Propoſals) contract for the purpoſe.

XVIII. That Orphans, in whoſe behalf particular ſubſcriptions have been heretofore opened, ſhall not be admitted to a participation of the benefits of the inſtitution, but on condition that their guardians or truſtees throw the amount or reſidue of ſuch ſubſcriptions into the general fund.

* There had been admitted upon the Foundation, at the end of the year 1783, twenty-five boys and twenty-one girls; all of them children of Officers (or Surgeons) who had died in indigent circumſtances.

XIX. That

XIX. That the Orphans be aſſembled together at the Preſidency, either in one or more houſes, as the Management ſhall find neceſſary; and that proper ſervants be appointed to attend on them *.

XX. That

* The boys were committed to the charge of a Mr. Cowen, (who keeps a private ſchool in Calcutta) till the Management ſhould be enabled to diſpoſe of them in a more ſuitable and eligible manner.—The girls, and infant males, were entruſted to the care of a Mr. and Mrs. Jervis, who have hitherto diſcharged their truſt entirely to the ſatisfaction of the Management.——The following letter from Mr. Jervis will ſhew the method purſued in rearing the children under his temporary charge:

To EDWARD HAY, Eſq.

"SIR,

"IN purſuance of orders from the Aſſiſtant to the Management of the Orphan Society, I beg leave to lay before you the following account of the Diet, &c. of the Children belonging to the Foundation, entruſted to Mrs. Jervis's and my care, and the manner in which they are employed.

"All the children riſe about half after ſix o'clock: The younger children are bathed every morning, the elder children every other morning; their hair is then combed: at eight o'clock they breakfaſt on tea, bread and butter, a good deal of milk being put into their tea. Immediately after breakfaſt the School opens, and continues till twelve o'clock; during which, ſome are employed making letters in ſamplers; others in ſewing, reading, ſpelling, &c. in their turns.

"At twelve o'clock, the younger children dine. They have always curry and rice, and generally mutton, fowl, or a pudding, and vegetables; water for their drink; and after dinner, an orange or a plantain each.

"The

XX. That the children be viſited daily by one of the Managers, (who ſhall perform this office in rotation) to the end that their wants, by being immediately known, may be promptly ſupplied, and the ſervants be kept cloſely to their ſeveral duties.

XXI. That the Management loſe no time in making the neceſſary arrangements for the removal of theſe Orphans to England; to which end they ſhall, as ſoon as poſſible, form engagements with proper perſons at home, who ſhall contract to receive

" The elder children dine at the table with ourſelves, about one o'clock. We have always curry or pelow; with either veal, mutton or fowls, and generally a pudding: they drink wâter; but on Sundays each child gets a glaſs of wine after dinner. They are then permitted to go to their rooms till four o'clock; at which time they all repair to the ſchool-room, and read, ſpell, &c. The elder children write a copy each: About ſun-ſet, they are allowed to play on the Terrace till half after ſix; when they get tea, &c. the ſame as in the morning. After tea, they ſay prayers; and ſome of the elder children ſing pſalms. The elder children are ſometimes employed till eight o'clock at coarſe needle-work; at which time the younger children go to bed and do not get any ſupper: the elder get a biſcuit each, and at nine o'clock go to bed. The children ſeldom have any thing between their meals, except the very youngeſt, who ſometimes get a biſcuit.——Thus, Sir, have I laid before you the regulations obſerved by Mrs. Jervis and myſelf, with regard to the children entruſted to our care; and ſhould you think any alteration neceſſary, I ſhall be happy to receive your commands.

" I am, &c.

Calcutta, (Signed) " JAMES JERVIS."
Jan. 18, 1784.

them on their arrival, and to lodge, board, clothe, and educate them till a certain age.

XXII. That the female Orphans be not kept in the country after attaining the age of four years; or the male Orphans, after the age of five.

XXIII. That, on the arrival of the children in England, ſuch as are legitimate, ſhall, on application of their relations, guardians, or truſtees, to the Management, or their agents at home to that end, be reſigned to the immediate care of ſuch relations, guardians, or truſtees, who, on pledging themſelves to adminiſter the ſupplies of the Society with fidelity, ſhall be entitled to receive, by quarterly payments, for the maintenance and education of every boy, till the age of the annual ſum of pounds ſterling; and, for the maintenance and education of every girl, till the age of the annual ſum of pounds ſterling; after which periods, it will reſt with the Management, or (by their appointment) with their agents in England, to determine what farther aids ſuch Orphans ſhall receive from the Society; the Management, or their agents, being to be guided in ſuch deciſions by the pecuniary circumſtances of the Orphans, and the ſtate of the funds of the Society at the time.

XXIV. That, on the male orphans ſent to England attaining the age of fourteen, the Management, or their agents at home, ſhall determine on their ſettlement in the world; in doing of which, they will neceſſarily be guided by the information they

they ſhall receive in reſpect to the conſtitution, the diſpoſition, the genius, and the acquirements of each boy. Such as may diſcover a turn for any particular occupation or trade, ſhall be bound apprentice to the buſineſs of their choice, at the expence of the Fund; and after having performed their indentures, ſhall receive from the Society ſuch aſſiſtance towards enabling them to ſet up for themſelves, as the Management, or their agents (whom they are carefully to chuſe) ſhall judge neceſſary to beſtow, and the funds of the Society may afford. *Such as ſhall be conſidered fit for the military ſervice of the Company, ſhall be recommended to the Honourable the Court of Directors for the appointment of Cadets; on obtaining of which, they ſhall be fitted out for India in a ſuitable manner, at the charge of the Fund*.*

XXV. That, on the female Orphans attaining the age of twelve, they be placed apprentices to creditable milliners, mantuamakers, ſtaymakers, or

* Gentlemen of the moſt reſpectable characters, and of the moſt acknowledged reputation for humanity and good ſenſe, are divided in their opinions touching the propriety of the concluding ſentence in this article.—The point, however, in diſpute, does not ſeem to demand any immediate diſcuſſion; and the Managers are ſo far from wiſhing to preſs it upon the Court of Directors, that they have expreſſed their willingneſs to wave it entirely; and, in ſuch extent as reſts with them, to expunge the Propoſal from the Plan, ſhould that be judged, in this country, either neceſſary or proper. But it is abundantly obvious, that even though the clauſe in conſideration ſhould be regarded as binding the Managers *to recommend*, yet it can, in no degree or manner, conſtrain the Court of Directors to make the ſort of appointment in queſtion.

otherwiſe, as the Management, or their agents, ſhall determine; and that, after ſerving their time, they ſhall obtain from the Society the neceſſary help towards enabling them to ſet up in buſineſs: That ſhould they, at the period of their engaging in buſineſs, be diſpoſed to enter into the matrimonial ſtate, they be farther entitled to receive ſuch marriage portion, or dowry, as the Management, or their agents in England, (whoſe approbation of the connection ſhall be previouſly yielded) ſhall think proper to grant; and that no girl marrying after ſuch period, ſhall have any claim on the Inſtitution for marriage portion or dowry, but be conſidered as finally diſcharged from the Foundation.

XXVI. That, in order to reſtrain Officers from deviſing, at or before their death, the *whole* of their poſſeſſions away from their children, and thereby throwing them, perhaps without neceſſity, and *totally* unprovided, upon the Inſtitution, it ſhall be the duty of the ſeveral Brigade Committees, upon the death of an Officer leaving one or more Orphans behind him, to tranſmit to the Management at the Preſidency, ſuch information reſpecting the eſtate of the deceaſed, and of its diſpoſition according to his will, as they ſhall be able to procure; and it ſhall remain with the Management, after due conſideration of the amount of the deceaſed's eſtate, and of the motives which governed him in the diſpoſal of it, to determine whether ſuch Orphan or Orphans ſhall be admitted on the Foundation or not.

XXVII. That

XXVII. That the Management be empowered to frame ſuch bye-laws and regulations, and to paſs ſuch occaſional orders and reſolutions, as they ſhall from time to time judge to be expedient; the ſpirit of the propoſed inſtitution, and not the letter of the preceding articles, guiding their determinations in every caſe that may come under their conſideration.

The preceding Addreſs and Plan having been received with almoſt univerſal approbation, the Officers preſent, with the ſeveral Brigades and Corps, ſubſcribed to the following

RESOLUTIONS.

I. AGREED to the eſtabliſhment of the fund, and to the monthly contributions ſpecified in the firſt article of the foregoing propoſals.

II. Agreed irrevocably to the deductions, or ſtoppages propoſed by the ſecond and third articles; provided that the Honourable the Governor General and Council ſhall be pleaſed to iſſue the neceſſary inſtructions to the ſeveral Paymaſters, and to the Military Paymaſter General: — To which end,

III. Agreed,

III. Agreed, that a letter be addreſſed to the Honourable Board, explaining to them the object of the Inſtitution; declaring our chearful acquieſcence in the two firſt articles of the preceding Propoſals; and humbly intreating them to iſſue the neceſſary inſtructions to the ſeveral Paymaſters of the Army, and to the Military Paymaſter General.

IV. Agreed to the general principles of the Inſtitution, as ſet forth in the preceding Propoſals, and the Addreſs prefixed to them.

At the ſame time the following gentlemen were choſen Managers of the Society:

Lieutenant Colonel DUFF, Commandant of Artillery;
Major WILLIAM BRUCE, acting Adjutant General;
Major WILLIAM DUNCAN,
Captain ROBERT BAILLIE,
Captain MARK WOOD, and
Captain WILLIAM SCOTT, Secretary to the Provincial Commander in Chief.

To whom were afterwards added,

CLAUD ALEXANDER, Eſq. Military Paymaſter General;
JAMES MILLER, Eſq. Aſſiſtant Accomptant General;
EDWARD HAY, Eſq. Secretary to the Governor General and Council;
WILLIAM PAXTON, Eſq. Superintendant of the Mint;
WILLIAM JACKSON, Eſq. Regiſter of the Supreme Court; and
PHILIP DELISLE, Eſq. Merchant.

The

The late Sir Eyre Coote chearfully undertook the office of Governor to the Society; and upon his death, Major-General Stibbert, with the ſame willingneſs, accepted the vacant truſt. Mr. Alexander has preſided as Deputy Governor of the Society ſince the firſt general meeting of the Management.

Upon the death of Major Bruce, Captain M'Intyre, Secretary to the Board of Ordnance, was elected a manager; and upon the departure of Major Duncan and Captain Baillie from the Preſidency, Lieutenant Colonel Macpherſon, Quarter-Maſter General, and Captain Robert Frith, Aid de Camp to the Governor General, were choſen Members of the Management in their room.

The Compiler of theſe Papers having for many months had the honour and ſatisfaction of acting under the above-named Gentlemen, and of aiding them in the execution of the important truſt committed to them by the Army, has had ſuch abundant experience of their zeal, induſtry, and abilities, as, while it qualifies him, alſo renders it in ſome meaſure incumbent on him, to become their eulogiſt. But he perſuades himſelf, that he ſhall amply diſcharge this duty, by publiſhing theſe papers, which alone afford the moſt compleat and honourable teſtimony of their merits.

On the 18th of November, 1782, the following Letters were addreſſed to the Governor General and Council, and to Sir Eyre Coote, by the Military Managers already named.

TO THE HONOURABLE

WARREN HASTINGS, Eſq.

GOVERNOR GENERAL,

&c.

SUPREME COUNCIL.

HONOURABLE SIR, and GENTLEMEN,

A PLAN for the eſtabliſhment of a Fund for the maintenance of the Orphans of Gentlemen belonging to the Army of this Preſidency, who have died, or may hereafter die, in indigent circumſtances, having met with the chearful, and almoſt univerſal, concurrence of the Officers, (the detachment

ment in the Weſt of India, for an obvious reaſon, excepted) we are inſtructed by them to expreſs to your Honourable Board, their moſt humble and earneſt requeſt, that you will be pleaſed to iſſue ſuch orders to the Military Paymaſter General, and the ſeveral Paymaſters of the Forces, as ſeem to you beſt calculated for carrying their humane and laudable deſign into effect.

We beg leave to tranſcribe in this place, for the ſatisfaction of your Honourable Board, ſuch parts of the Reſolutions ſubſcribed by the Officers, as are explanatory of their wiſhes on this head.

" Firſt — Agreed to the eſtabliſhment of the " Fund, and to the monthly contributions ſpeci- " fied in the firſt article of the foregoing propo- " ſals," viz.

That each Subaltern, and Aſſiſtant Surgeon, contribute monthly, three Sicca rupees; each Captain and Surgeon, ſix; and each Major nine.

" Second — Agreed irrevocably to the deductions " or ſtoppages propoſed by the ſecond and third " articles," the firſt of which only being material, is here inſerted; viz.

That to prevent difficulty and expence in the collections, as well as to ſecure their amount againſt all accidents, the Officers conſent to the deduction of the ſpecified contributions from their monthly pay.

" Third — Agreed that a letter be addreſſed to " the Honourable Board, explaining to them the

" object of the inſtitution, declaring our chearfu
" acquieſcence in the two firſt articles of the pro-
" poſals, and humbly intreating them to iſſue the
" neceſſary inſtructions to the ſeveral Paymaſters
" of the Army, and to the Military Paymaſter
" General."

Not having any doubt but the whole body of Officers are heartily diſpoſed to ſupport the propoſed inſtitution, we preſume, gentlemen, to requeſt, that you will be ſo indulgent to the Army, as to iſſue in general orders, your commands to the ſeveral Paymaſters, directing the ſpecified ſtoppages to be made from all Officers and Surgeons who ſhall not ſignify to them, that they are non-ſubſcribers—Such an order would be unneceſſary, could it be aſcertained that the propoſals had been preſented to all the Officers without exception, for their ſubſcription. But as it is probable, many of them, being abſent from their corps at the time the propoſals were circulated, may not have had an opportunity, however deſirous, of ſubſcribing to them; ſuch an order will at once determine the number of poſitive diſſenters or non-ſubſcribers; and, by this means, ſerve as a guide to the Paymaſters for regulating the future deductions. We have the pleaſure, however, to remark, that there is reaſon to believe, the diſſenters throughout the whole Army will not amount to a greater number than twelve; ſince, among all the corps on this ſide of India, we know only of three or four officers who

have

have abſolutely refuſed their conſent to the eſtabliſhment of the fund.

We have the honour to be
With the higheſt reſpect,
Honourable SIR and GENTLEMEN,
Your moſt faithful
Obedient Servants,

(Signed)

PATRICK DUFF,	ROBERT BAILLIE,
WILLIAM BRUCE,	MARK WOOD,
WILLIAM DUNCAN,	WILLIAM SCOTT,

P. S. We have the authority of the Military Paymaſter General for aſſuring the Board, that their compliance with the requeſt of the Officers, will occaſion little or no additional intricacy in the buſineſs of his department.

TO LIEUTENANT-GENERAL

SIR EYRE COOTE, K. B.

COMMANDER IN CHIEF

OF THE

FORCES IN INDIA.

SIR,

THE Plan which we have the honour of laying before you, having been ſubmitted to the conſideration of the Officers of the Army belonging to this Eſtabliſhment; and the whole body of them (a very inconſiderable number excepted, among whom we know only of two or three poſitive diſſenters) having ſubſcribed to the four Reſolutions annexed to it, it is become our office, in conſequence of our election to the truſt of Managers, to prefer their humble, and we may ſay unanimous, requeſt to the Honourable the Governor General and Council. This we have accordingly done in the accompanying Addreſs; which being preſented to the Board by you, Sir, who are the head, and therefore the natural patron, of the army, and whoſe feelings, both as a man and a ſoldier, we are aſſured, will warmly intereſt you in the ſucceſs of the propoſed Inſtitution, we cheriſh the moſt ſanguine expectation of its meeting, through ſuch powerful ſupport, with a favourable reception from Government.

Some

Some objections having been ſtarted to the plan, in its preſent form, by perſons whoſe opinions we have always reſpected very highly, and whoſe character for a liberal and generous attention to the ſufferings of individuals, is held in too great eſtimation to need the aid of our general teſtimony; we preſume, Sir, to intreat the favour of your attention, while we examine thoſe objections, and endeavour to remove them. *The argument muſt be very weighty and incontrovertible, indeed, that can juſtify the rejection of a Propoſal, which, however defective in its terms, is indiſputably calculated to promote the intereſts of humanity.* It is our ſolicitude to engage you to appear at the Board as the advocate of the indigent Officers' helpleſs Orphan, that prompts us to undertake the refutation of opinions, which will probably reach your ear, if you are not already acquainted with them: and it is this ſolicitude that muſt be our apology, ſhould the taſk we have impoſed on ourſelves lead us to be unneceſſarily prolix or diffuſe.

The objection that, on every account, requires to be conſidered firſt, lies againſt that part of the Plan which propoſes, that the illegitimate Orphans be ſent to England, there to be educated and ſettled, according to the future determination of the Society. It has been ſaid, that this Propoſal involves a political inconvenience, becauſe the imperfections of the children, whether bodily or mental; that is, whether conſiſting in their colour, their conformation, or their genius, would, in proceſs of time,

be

be communicated, by intermarriage, to the generality of the people of Great Britain; and by this means debaſe the ſucceeding generations of Engliſhmen.——In reply to this argument, which we have endeavoured to expreſs in the ſtrongeſt, as well as plaineſt terms, it may be obſerved,

Firſt, That it is yet to be proved, whether children of the complection uſually produced by the intercourſe of an Engliſhman with a Muſſelman or Gentoo woman, being educated, from an early age, in Great Britain, and intermarrying with natives of that kingdom, would give riſe to a race, in which, after the third or fourth generations, there would, in any reſpect, be a perceptible degeneracy from the male ſtock.—Indeed, both reaſon and experience ſeem, at leaſt, to warrant the belief, that education would prevent any degeneracy in ſuch a race, with reſpect to the faculties of the mind; and it might, we conceive, be ſafely preſumed, from the ſilence of the Legiſlature on this head, that the evil apprehended by ſome perſons here muſt be altogether imaginary; ſince we cannot, without derogating from its wiſdom, ſuppoſe, that had the matter appeared to them in a ſerious light, (and they could not have been ignorant that children of the ſtamp in queſtion arrived yearly in England) they would ſo long have delayed the application of the only effectual remedy which the caſe admits of.—But leaving this topic, we are to remark,

Secondly, That until there be a poſitive and compulſive prohibition to the contrary, every order of Europeans

Europeans in India will continue, as heretofore, to ſend their illegitimate iſſue to the mother country; becauſe the ſame affections, or we may ſay, the ſame prejudices, which have hitherto prompted them to do ſo, will continue to influence the conduct of the parent, the guardian, and the patron. Thus the evil, whether real or ideal, will ſtill operate in its uſual extent, until an act of the Legiſlature ſhall reſtrain the Britiſh ſubject from ſending his children to his native country. It is to be conſidered,

Thirdly, That the Fund, to the inſtitution and ſupport of which the conſent of the Army was ſo eſſential, could never have been eſtabliſhed, had the Plan declared that the Orphans were to remain for ever in India; or had it been entirely ſilent on points ſo intereſting as their education and ſettlement in the world are, and ever muſt be. We are warranted in making this aſſertion, by our experience and our knowledge of the ſentiments entertained by the generality of the Officers. *Such a Propoſal would, on every account, have been diſagreeable to them: it would have been diametrically oppoſite to the feelings with which the greateſt part, if not the whole, of them are inſpired; it would have been a tacit condemnation of the principles which regulated the practice of moſt of them, in reſpect to their children; and it would have preſcribed limits to the parental duty and attachments. It would, therefore, have been totally rejected; and the promoters of it would have been told, that till neceſſity, or, in other words, an act of the Legiſlature, obliged*

obliged them to adopt ſuch a plan, they would deny it their ſupport. It is to be remarked,

Fourthly, That as the male Orphans could not acquire, in this country, all thoſe advantages which a careful education is capable of beſtowing, and which would be certainly attainable in England, it would be totally irreconcileable to the principles on which the Plan is founded, and to the ſpirit of liberal charity, to exclude them from a benefit ſo material to their ſucceſs in their progreſs through life, and ſo requiſite to their becoming uſeful members of ſociety. *A boy, at the age of fourteen, or ſooner, may diſcover a turn for a particular profeſſion or art, which, if properly encouraged and attended to, may not only render him, in ſome degree, valuable to his country, but likewiſe lay the foundation both of credit and profit to himſelf. This early propenſity, however, can only be duly improveable at home; ſince in India there is neither a ſufficient variety of maſters or of artiſts to undertake ſo important a taſk. We will allow, that the children may be inſtructed in reading and writing, without being ſent from Bengal; but though this limited education might qualify them for clerks in the public offices, or the private compting-houſes of merchants, yet ſurely it would be both inhuman and impolitic to confine the exerciſe of ſuch talents as they might poſſeſs from Nature, within this contracted circle. If the Orphan of an Officer and a Gentleman ſhould be entitled, by his capacity, to move in a ſphere ſomewhat ſuperior to that of a Portugueſe or Bengali writer, we think that it would not be juſt, and we are ſure that it is not on any*

account

account neceſſary, to damp his promiſing genius, check his moderate and harmleſs ambition, or circumſcribe his proſpects and his fortunes *. It is to be obſerved,

Fifthly, That all the difficulties and obſtacles which occur, to render the ſuitable education and eſtabliſhment of male Orphans in India impracticable, and almoſt every conſideration that oppoſes the idea of prohibiting their removal to the Mother Country, appears to claim a more than ordinary attention in the caſe of female Orphans.—To excite this attention in the man of delicacy and of feeling—in the parent—or in the ſoldier, the bare mention of their ſex muſt be ſufficient. We ſhall decline, therefore, a diſquiſition, which, while irrequiſite, would be alſo painful both to you, Sir, and ourſelves; and will only obſerve, by the way, that although the political oppoſers of the Inſtitution have ſuggeſted, that the male children, if educated and kept in India, may ſupplant, in the courſe of time, the tribe of Portugueſe and Bengali writers, we have not been told that this conſideration can, by analogy or otherwiſe, be applied to the female children. In addition, Sir, to what we

* *If the continuance of this deſcription of children in England, after the age of maturity, ſhould be ſeriouſly inſiſted on as a meaſure of dangerous tendency, the evil might be averted, by ſending them back to India, upon the expiration of their reſpective indentures. Regularly trained to, and initiated in, buſineſs, they would doubtleſſly be no leſs able to advance their fortunes in India than in England; and might there, perhaps, for an obvious reaſon, prove more uſeful members of ſociety.*

have already offered in defence of that part of the Plan which has been moſt formidably attacked, we might adduce other arguments of a collateral kind. We might, for inſtance, ſtate, that both the Weſt India and North America colonies have produced children of the ſame complection, who, being educated in England, have neither proved chargeable to ſociety, nor diſgraceful to the human ſpecies; and we might thence infer, in behalf of the Orphans whoſe cauſe we are engaged in, that poſſibly Nature may be no leſs liberal of her gifts to theſe; who, if ſuffered to viſit the Mother Country, may not become more hurtful, or more burdenſome to it, than their brethren of the New World. But we think it unneceſſary to urge this ſubject farther, in the perſuaſion, that enough has been ſaid, for the preſent, to demonſtrate that no ſerious or preſſing objection lies againſt the Plan on the ground which we have examined. We ſhall, therefore, diſmiſs it with obſerving, that in whatever light the application of the Officers may be viewed, no harm can reſult from the Board's acquieſcence in it; and that this may be yielded (ſhould they conceive it proper, in their official capacity, to deny their poſitive countenance to the Inſtitution) with ſuch a reſervation, as ſhall enable them to revoke the indulgence, in the event of a diſapprobation of the meaſure being expreſſed from home. In the mean time, we ſubmit it to you, whether to embarraſs the collection of the contributions conſented to by the Army, would not be alſo to affect very materially

rially the wretched Orphans, (the fund for whoſe maintenance is to ariſe from thoſe monthly ſubſcriptions) without producing any viſible good end. A period of near two years muſt unavoidably elapſe, before the Managers can ſend a ſingle child to England, (ſuppoſing the Fund in its infancy equal to the expence) ſince they muſt previouſly enter into engagements with perſons at home for the purpoſe. Thus, before the expiration of this term, the ſenſe of the Court of Directors, or of the Legiſlature, may be obtained on the ſubject; when, whether favourable or not to the Orphans, there will have been a conſiderable ſum realized for their benefit, to be applied in ſuch manner as the tenor of the deciſion from home ſhall render neceſſary.—Should this deciſion even diſappoint the wiſhes and expectations of the Army, the fund would certainly continue to receive their ſupport, becauſe the Orphans dependent on it would be no leſs objects of humane conſideration than before: anticipate, however, the reſtriction which ſuch a determination would involve, and a ſum, not far ſhort of a lack of rupees, will be loſt to the fund, ſince the Officers will decline ſubſcribing to the Plan, under a condition which they entirely diſapprove.

The ſecond objection, of which we are obliged to take notice, may be anſwered in a few words.—It is pretended by ſome, that the Brigade Committees will be a ſource of conſtant vexation and trouble to the Managers at the Preſidency: but the authority, Sir, of theſe Committees is clearly de-

fined; and you will be ſatisfied, we truſt, even on a ſlight peruſal of this part of the Plan, that they are not inveſted with the power which the objectors imagine them deſirous to exert. The Management cannot be bound, but by orders or regulations paſſed by a majority of the Army; whoſe reſolutions it will be the buſineſs of the Committees to report.—Now, is it conceivable, that any individual whatſoever ſhould poſſeſs ſufficient influence or addreſs to get an abſurd, an hurtful, or an uſeleſs propoſition paſſed into a reſolution of the Army?—The objection aſſumes, that ſuch a reſolution muſt be uſeleſs, hurtful, or abſurd;—for if it be otherwiſe, if it be judicious, beneficial and expedient, how can it be conſidered by the Managers as either vexatious or troubleſome? Thoſe who have urged this argument, ſeem to believe either that the Army, although forming the chief ſupport of the Inſtitution, would have no right to eſtabliſh laws for its government; or if it poſſeſſed ſuch a right, its members were too capricious to be entruſted with the exerciſe of it.

The next objection that occurs, inſiſts upon the impoſſibility of finding thirteen gentlemen who will undertake the truſt of Managers; or who, conſenting to accept it, will continue to act for any length of time, while ſubject to the vexatious control, &c. of the Brigade Committees. What has been ſaid in reply to the preceding objection might ſerve as a refutation of the one before us, which is evidently grounded upon the other.—

We

We will obſerve, however, on this head, that the difficulty here ſtarted, has no exiſtence, but in the imagination of thoſe who ſuggeſted it. Thirteen Gentlemen have chearfully accepted of the truſt of Managers — A truſt which, we venture to pronounce, none of them will, at any time, be impatient to relinquiſh: neither do we heſitate to believe, that whenever ſuch circumſtances may ariſe, as ſhall make it neceſſary to elect a new Manager, there will not be wanting, thoſe who will regard their call to ſo honourable an office as a moſt flattering teſtimony of the public eſteem. Indeed it is not to be comprehended why this ſort of diſtinction, which is far from being thought lightly of in England, ſhould be diſregarded in India, where the propoſed inſtitution will have the ſame important object in view with every other humane eſtabliſhment; viz. the advantage of a certain deſcription of our fellow creatures; and where, for the attainment of ſuch end, its annual reſources will be proportionably conſiderable. For our own part we are of opinion, that to engage the aſſiſtance of proper perſons in this generous and laudable undertaking, nothing more is neceſſary, than that the buſineſs (by a methodical diſtribution of it very practicable) ſhould be put in ſuch a train, as ſhall render it eaſy and ſimple to all the Gentlemen who may be employed in conducting it*.

The

* The event has abundantly proved the futility of this objection; and whatever difference of opinion may occaſionally happen

The laſt objection that meets us, refers to the difficulty of ſettling a plan for the reception and education of the children at home. It is either preſumed, that it will be next to impoſſible to find people in England who will contract with the Managers for this purpoſe; or, that if there be ſuch people, the Managers will be unable to diſcover them. But as the bare recital of this objection muſt be ſufficient to expoſe its weakneſs to any perſon at all acquainted with Great Britain, we ſhall not detain you a moment by conſidering it. Some arguments are, in truth, ſo invalid, as to be irrefutable; and the preſent one appears to us to be of this ſpecies.

Thus, Sir, have we endeavoured to defend the plan before you againſt the principal objections that have been ſtarted to it. After all, we profeſs to be far from imagining, that it is ſo perfect as, with little labour, it may be rendered. Indeed, it arrogates no ſuch merit to itſelf, ſince, in the prefixed addreſs, it is acknowledged to be ſuſceptible of conſiderable improvement, and is offered only as a foundation on which a more ſuitable edifice may be conſtructed; ſince by the tenth article of the

pen to ariſe between the Committees and Managers, it is not conceivable, that temperance or candour ſhould be wanting on either part in the diſcuſſion of controverted points. Diſintereſted zeal and eſtabliſhed integrity, as they have an unqueſtionable claim to the confidence and reſpect of liberal men, ſo they are always certain of obtaining both from the Officers of the Bengal Army.

propo-

propoſals, the Officers of the Army are conſidered as competent to the reviſal and correction of it — acquieſcing only for the preſent (by their fourth reſolution) in its general ſpirit and principle; and ſince, by the cloſing article, the Managers are impowered to make ſuch bye laws and regulations, and to paſs ſuch occaſional orders and reſolutions as they may from time to time judge expedient, always taking its liberal meaning, and not the letter of it, for their guide. But we preſume to think, that the object of the propoſed Inſtitution being clearly defined, and ſome of the moſt probable means of obtaining it being ſhewn (merely to ſatisfy Gentlemen that the execution of the plan to which they were invited to ſubſcribe was not impracticable) the conſideration of its defects, and the diſcuſſion of ſecondary matters, ſhould be deferred till the actual eſtabliſhment of the fund. For had the circulation of the propoſals been delayed till they had been altered and amended, according to the fancy or judgement of every objector, it is almoſt certain, that we ſhould never have aſcertained the point on which the very exiſtence of the Inſtitution depended; viz. Whether the Army would agree to the deductions neceſſary to its ſucceſs? The great variety in the tempers and opinions of men, made it utterly impoſſible to frame a ſet of propoſals which ſhould be equally acceptable to all.

Hence it became proper to offer only what was moſt likely to accord with the ſentiments and ideas

of

of thoſe, from whom the projected Inſtitution was to derive its principal, if not its ſole ſupport; ſince, had the original motion been clogged with any propoſitions repugnant, on the face of them, or in their operation, to the feelings or the judgement of the generality of the Officers, it is evident that it muſt at once have fallen to the ground. The caſe is now, however, otherwiſe: the Army have acquieſced particularly and fully in the only article which was eſſential to the eſtabliſhment of the fund. In the other articles they have concurred but generally; they have referred the improvement or the perfection of the Inſtitution to Time, which alone can effect either the one or the other. Thus, the Fund being ultimately eſtabliſhed, by the compliance of the Board with the requeſt of the Officers, every Subſcriber will be privileged to offer to the conſideration of the Society, or the Managers, whatever regulation or propoſal he may think conducive to the good of the Inſtitution; when, it is not to be doubted, but it will be candidly examined, and, if found reaſonable, adopted.

Before we conclude this Addreſs, we beg leave to obſerve to you, Sir, that although we have not yet learned the determination of the Officers belonging to the Detachment in the Weſt of India, reſpecting the Plan, yet, from the reception it has met with in Bengal, we have reaſon to believe that they will moſt heartily concur in it; and that the Orders of the Board, directing the ſpecified

ſtoppages

ſtoppages to be made, will, whenever ſignified to them, be chearfully complied with.

We have the honour to be,

With the higheſt reſpect and eſteem,

SIR,

Your moſt obedient,

Faithful Servants,

(Signed)

PATRICK DUFF,
WILLIAM BRUCE,
WILLIAM DUNCAN,
ROBERT BAILLIE,
MARK WOOD,
WILLIAM SCOTT.

Fort William,
November 18, 1782.

THE Governor General and Council having, in compliance with the wiſhes of the Army, conveyed to them in the preceding Letters, authoriſed the ſtoppages ſpecified in the firſt article of the Plan, the Managers addreſſed the following Letter to the Honourable the Court of Directors. It bears date March 29, 1783, and was diſpatched by the Surprize ſloop. Since the arrival of that veſſel in England, the attention of the Directors has been ſo much occupied by objects of the higheſt moment to the Company, as to have hitherto prevented them from noticing this Letter; which, it is not to be doubted, would, at another period, have obtained their ſpeedy and favourable conſideration. Being at length, however, diſengaged from their more important avocations, it is hoped that they will take an early occaſion of gratifying the wiſhes of the Managers of the Society, who are anxious to learn their determination on the points which have been reſpectfully ſubmitted to their Court.

TO THE HONOURABLE THE

COURT OF DIRECTORS,

FOR AFFAIRS OF THE

HONOURABLE THE

UNITED COMPANY

OF

MERCHANTS OF ENGLAND

TRADING TO THE

EAST INDIES.

HONOURABLE SIRS,

PERMIT, us in the names of the Officers belonging to the Army of this Presidency, to call your attention to a Society recently instituted among them, under the sanction of your Superior Government, with a view to the attainment of some of the most interesting purposes of humanity: — and allow us, on the part of the same numerous body, to intreat your Honourable Court, to extend your aid and protection to an Establishment, which, we are well aware, cannot effectually operate in the intended and wished-for degree but by your countenance and active support.

We have the honour to tranſmit with this Addreſs ſome printed copies of the Plan alluded to, together with tranſcripts of the letters addreſſed on the ſubject to the Honourable the Governor General and Council, and to Lieutenant General Sir Eyre Coote, the Commander in Chief of your forces. To theſe we have added the reſolution of this Government on the application of the Army, and the anſwer of Sir Eyre Coote to the tender made him of the office or truſt of Governor of the Orphan Society.

In reading the addreſs prefixed to the plan, we conjure you to weigh with particular attention the following paſſage; the juſtneſs of which we could eaſily eſtabliſh, were it neceſſary, by naming certain moſt worthy perſons who have died within our own knowledge exactly under the circumſtances therein deſcribed..

" But it is not, perhaps, ſo obvious a remark, " that the early eſtabliſhment of ſuch a Society as " is now recommended would have operated to re- " concile many a valuable Officer and deſerving " man to his diſſolution, whoſe laſt moments have " been imbittered by poignant and agonizing re- " flections, occaſioned by anxiety for the future " fate of the deſtitute offspring which he was to " leave behind him: and we truſt, that it is impoſ- " ſible for a thought of this ſerious and affecting " nature to preſent itſelf to the mind of any Officer, " without creating in him an ardent deſire to pro- " mote the ſucceſs of the ſcheme before him to " the utmoſt of his ability."

We

We are hopeful that any defects diſcoverable in an inſtitution which aims at ſuch humane ends as the total prevention, or at leaſt the alleviation, of that miſery and diſtreſs which we have deſcribed, and the protection of the helpleſs Orphan, will have no other effect on liberal and benevolent minds than the exciting in them an earneſt ſolicitude to aſſiſt the laudable deſign with their beſt endeavours and advice; *And hence we perſuade ourſelves, that your Honourable Court will examine the plan ſubmitted to your conſideration, with that tenderneſs and candour to which it is, on every account intitled; and that you will be leſs forward to condemn any imperfections which it may appear to poſſeſs, than to ſuggeſt to us in what manner they may moſt eaſily be removed, and how the charitable purpoſes of the Inſtitution may be moſt effectually accompliſhed.*

It is not our intention to detain you here by entering into a refutation of thoſe objections which we have heard ſtarted againſt the plan before you. We have already replied to them in our firſt Addreſs to Sir Eyre Coote, under date the 18th of November, 1782, which we humbly beg leave to recommend to your ſerious peruſal, in the hope that the arguments which we have there employed, in anſwer to the objection moſt ſtrenuouſly urged by a few perſons, will appear to you concluſive and convincing. In all events, we preſume to believe, that until a law be paſſed, prohibiting the removal of the children in queſtion to England, your Honourable Court will not deny your countenance to a

practice

practice which, it would ſeem, ought not to be reſiſted on political ground, as either pernicious or impolitic, till it be pronounced to be ſuch by the Legiſlature of Great Britain.

Although we never heard it ſeriouſly objected to the Inſtitution, that it tended to the encouragement of certain immoralities of conduct, yet we are not ignorant that there may be perſons who will gravely condemn it on that ſcore. To ſuch perſons nothing can be offered in apology for the Plan, but the weakneſs of human nature: yet, while we are compelled to acknowledge this defect, we entreat it may be remembered, that ſome of the moſt humane and laudable eſtabliſhments in England are liable to the ſame charge; and that if the preſent inſtitution ſhould tend to increaſe the propagation of illegitimate children, it will alſo tend to the preſervation of the health and lives of the Officers of the Army, in a country where the diſorders incident to a promiſcuous commerce with various women are more fatal, perhaps, than in any other part of the world. We alſo beg it may be obſerved, that by the 23d article of the Propoſals, a poſitive encouragement is given to matrimony, far exceeding what the inſtitution can be accuſed of offering to an illicit intercourſe with the females of this country: ſo that, on the whole, we are hopeful it will be granted, that the intereſts of morality have been as carefully attended to, and thoſe of immorality as little eſpouſed, as the principle of charity, and the nature of things would

would admit *. We requeſt the pardon of your Honourable Court for touching on a topic of this kind; but as the occaſion ſeemed to demand what we have ſaid, we thought it our duty rather to depart from the ſtrict line of decorum, than by our ſilence to hazard an injury to the cauſe committed by the Army to our particular charge and conduct.

We will here take the liberty of ſpecifying thoſe points in which it appears to us, that the patronage of your Honourable Court is moſt eſſentially neceſſary to the ſucceſs and permanence of the Inſtitution; not doubting, that your concern for the relief and happineſs of a numerous diviſion of your ſervants, (always moſt anxious about the fate of their offspring, becauſe moſt ſubject to the ſudden ſtroke of death) aided by a principle of general benevolence, will induce you to concur with chearfulneſs in thoſe requeſts which we take permiſſion to prefer to your Honourable Court on their behalf.

Firſt, *It ſeems to us, after an attentive reviſion of the Plan before your Honourable Court, that the Propoſal for employing agents at home, for the purpoſe of*

* It need hardly be here obſerved, that, not leſs than nine tenths of the Company's ſervants abroad being, of neceſſity, unable to enter into matrimonial connections of a ſuitable kind, it would be equally fruitleſs and unjuſt to attempt, in any ſhape, to lay a reſtraint upon a ſort of commerce which, though it may not be entirely defenſible, is obviouſly rendered unavoidable by the very nature of our eſtabliſhments in India. It is this equitable conſideration which gives the helpleſs iſſue of ſuch an intercourſe that particular claim to the countenance and protection of the ruling power, which the illegitimate offspring of others do not poſſeſs.

managing

managing the buſineſs of the Inſtitution in England, muſt, in its operation, be defective, unleſs ſuch agents be under the immediate control of your Honourable Court. We therefore moſt humbly entreat, that you will be pleaſed to undertake the direction and ſuperintendance of this Charity, by appointing ſuch perſons in England to act under you, in the execution of its ſeveral purpoſes, as you may deem moſt fit for the truſt; and by indulging us with your counſel and inſtructions how we may beſt effectuate thoſe objects of the inſtitution, which will depend on the exertions and diligence of the Managers in this Country *.

Secondly, *We have conſidered, that although from the univerſal acquieſcence of the preſent corps of Officers on this eſtabliſhment in the Propoſals before you, there is great reaſon to infer, that among thoſe who may hereafter enter into your ſervice, there would be but few who would not voluntarily ſubſcribe to the ſame; yet as it is to be wiſhed that the permanency of the fund were ſecured againſt every poſſible caprice or prejudice, it is our earneſt requeſt to your Honourable Court, that you will paſs an order, making it binding on all perſons who*

* When the Managers of the Society ventured to prefer this requeſt to the Court of Directors, they acted under the perſuaſion, that the agents, being once nominated by them, the Court would rarely find their interpoſition neceſſary; and that conſequently any trouble which a Committee of the Court might be liable to receive, in the event of their undertaking the truſt, could not be very conſiderable. The firſt meaſure neceſſary to be taken, and indeed the moſt important one, appears to be the appointment of perſons in ſome eligible part of England, to receive and educate the children of both ſexes, on their arrival in this country. There can be but little difficulty in making a contract of this nature.

may

may henceforward engage in the military ſervice of this Eſtabliſhment, to contribute, in the ſpecified proportions, to the ſupport of the Orphan Society. No perſons of this deſcription would ever, it is evident, object to ſuch a condition; nor do we heſitate to believe, that your Honourable Court will readily conſent to impoſe it; the more eſpecially, as a precedent of the kind is to be found in the inſtitution of Chelſea Hoſpital.*

Thirdly, *As the chief diſburſements of the Society will be in England, we are to intreat, that your Honourable Court will be ſo indulgent as to grant, for the benefit of the Inſtitution, an annual remittance (through the Honourable the Governor General and Council) of the ſurplus of our receipts, or of the intereſt that ſhall accrue from our capital, after defraying the expences of the Society in this country. The monthly contributions will amount, we have calculated, to about four thouſand current rupees; and there being between twenty and thirty Orphans, with whom the Foundation will be immediately charged, we judge that their board, lodging, and clothing, may ſtand the Society monthly in about thirteen or fourteen hundred rupees; ſo that at the end of a year, by which time we hope to be favoured with the communication of the pleaſure of your Honourable Court on the ſubject of this Addreſs, the ſavings of the Society will not fall ſhort of thirty thouſand rupees, which remitted to England, will, we truſt, prove an adequate*

* To the inſtance of Chelſea Hoſpital, may be added the eſtabliſhment of Chatham, or the Chatham Cheſt. But no precedent is in fact neceſſary to juſtify a regulation, which would be evidently founded in reaſon and humanity, and to which no perſon living can either have a right, or could be hardy enough, to object.

reſource for the maintenance and education of the children at home for a term of three or four years. Thus, before the Society can be charged with the expence of putting any of the Orphans out to buſineſs, (few of them having yet attained the age of eight years) the Fund, we aſſure ourſelves, will have accumulated ſo conſiderably, as to be at leaſt equal to the accompliſhment of every ſubſtantial purpoſe of the Inſtitution *.

We think it proper, in this place, to inform your Honourable Court, that we have determined not to ſend home any of the Orphans, now under our charge, till we ſhall have learned your determination on the ſeveral applications conveyed to you in this Addreſs. *We, therefore, preſume to intreat, that you will be ſo good as to ſignify your pleaſure to us on the Plan before you, by as early an opportunity as poſſible; and we again beg permiſſion to ſolicit from your Honourable Court your favourable attention to the ſubject of this Addreſs, in which the feelings of humanity, and the intereſts of your ſervants, are ſo much concerned.*

We have the honour to be,
With great reſpect,
HONOURABLE SIRS,
Your moſt faithful humble Servants,
(Signed)

CLAUD ALEXANDER, ROBERT BAILLIE, PATRICK DUFF,
ANDREW WILLIAMS, WILLIAM PAXTON, WM. DUNCAN,
WILLIAM JACKSON, EDWARD HAY, WM. BRUCE.
PHILIP DELISLE, WILLIAM SCOTT,

Fort William, March 29, 1783.

* If a limitation of the ſum to be thus annually remitted ſhould be judged neceſſary, it might be fixed, for the preſent, at three thouſand pounds.

THE

THE preceding Papers are judged ſufficient for the purpoſe of conveying to the Reader a clear idea of the riſe, progreſs, and preſent ſtate of this humane eſtabliſhment. In theſe the principles of the Inſtitution have been fully exhibited, and it is hoped, as fully defended againſt every kind of objection that can poſſibly be urged. To prove that the Charity has been hitherto conducted according to thoſe principles, nothing more would be neceſſary than the publication of the proceedings of the Managers. Their names, alone, however, joined to the teſtimony afforded by the foregoing papers, will, we truſt, obtain us credit for the aſſertion, that they have been uniformly guided in all their tranſactions, by the true ſpirit of the Inſtitution, joined to an unremitting ſolicitude for its proſperity and duration.

The Publiſher wiſhes it was in his power to lay before his readers, a perfect account of that part of the Charity which extends to the children of the Non-commiſſioned and private Europeans, and which was engrafted, as it were, on the original Inſtitution in July 1783. He is concerned, that all the papers relative to this intereſting ſubject are not at preſent in his poſſeſſion; ſince he perſuades himſelf, that the arguments which were employed by the Managers to prevail on the Governor General and Council, to beſtow their attention and protection on this numerous claſs of children, would have ſatisfied every reader, how practicable the undertaking is, of rendering them moſt uſeful members of the Britiſh communities in India. An imperfect ſketch of the

plan on which the Managers propoſed to conduct this part of the Inſtitution, is hereto ſubjoined — It was preſented to the Governor General and Council by the Managers of the Society, together with a letter, in which they ſo fully demonſtrated the advantages which would accrue to the Public, from the adoption of the meaſure they recommended, that the Council, with a liberality and promptitude which reflect the greateſt honour on them, complied with every part of the propoſal; granting a monthly allowance for every child received by the Society, engaging to defray the expence of the building deſigned for their accommodation, and putting the Managers in poſſeſſion of an extenſive and convenient ſpot of ground for the purpoſe.

It may be proper to obſerve in this place, that it never was in the contemplation of the Managers, to ſend any of this deſcription of children to England; ſuch a meaſure in reſpect to them is as unneceſſary as it would be impracticable, their number in February laſt being very little ſhort of five hundred.

SKETCH

SKETCH

OF A

PLAN

FOR CONDUCTING THE PROPOSED

INSTITUTION,

IN BEHALF OF THE CHILDREN

OF THE

NON-COMMISSIONED AND PRIVATE EUROPEANS.

I. THAT a ſuitable Building be erected in the neighbourhood of Calcutta, for the accommodation of three hundred Children, upon the moſt frugal and ſimple conſtruction poſſible.

II. That this Building conſiſt of two ſeparate

REMARKS.

I. THE advantages which would ariſe from the Children being ſettled in Calcutta, or its neighbourhood, are very conſiderable.

Firſt, they would be immediately under the eye of the Management.

Secondly, The Girls would be preſented with parts

parts or wings, to be erected at a proper diſtance from each other; one of which to be for the reception of the male, and the other for the reception of the female Children.

III. That the Boys be inſtructed in reading, writing, and the four firſt rules of arithmetic.

IV. That the Girls, beſides being taught to read, be inſtructed in knitting, ſpinning, and all kinds of plain work.

V. That the Males be maintained and educated by the Society, till they are fit for, and obtain admiſſion into, the Service, as Privates, Fifers, Drummers, Marines, Overſeers, or otherwiſe; when they ſhall be diſcharged from the Foundation.

REMARKS.

more frequent and more favourable opportunities of marrying well, than would offer in any other part of the country.

Thirdly, They would alſo be more likely to procure ſervice.

Fourthly, They would receive more day-work, for the advantage of the Fund.

Fifthly, The Boys might be more eaſily diſpoſed of, either by ſettling them as Clerks, or binding them apprentice to Captains of Ships, Tradeſmen, Handicrafts, &c.

V. It may be preſumed that moſt of the Boys will be fit for the Service, in one or other of the capacities mentioned, by the age of twelve.

VI. That

VI. That ſuch Boys as, through bodily infirmities or other cauſes, ſhall not be qualified for any of the ſtations above enumerated, be otherwiſe ſettled according to their genius or acquirements.

VII. That the Females be maintained and educated by the Society, till they become marriageable, or qualified for ſervice or buſineſs.

VIII. That ſuch Girls as may be taken in marriage from the Foundation, ſhall receive ſuch help (by way of portion) from the Society, as the Management ſhall judge neceſſary or reaſonable, according to circumſtances.

IX. That ſuch Girls as quit the Foundation for ſervice, ſhall be fitted out by the Management in a ſuitable manner, and furniſhed with certificates

REMARKS.

VI. Many may ſerve as Clerks in the public offices, or compting-houſes of merchants, and others may be bound apprentices to ſuch trades as the Management ſhall deem proper.

VII. They may be uſeful in many of the Company's manufactures.

of

of their diſcharge from the Foundation; but ſuch females ſhall not afterwards receive any marriage portion from the Society.

X. That ſuch Girls as through bodily infirmities, or other cauſes, may not be qualified for ſervice, ſhall be permitted to remain on the Foundation, and to take in day-work, the product of which ſhall go to the Fund, according to the practice of the Aſylum in London.

XI. That this Inſtitution be governed by ſuch regulations and orders as the Management may hereafter frame for the purpoſe.

X. Or they may be employed in making the clothes of the Boys and younger Girls of the Foundation.

Calcutta,
July 16th, 1783.

BRITISH MUSEUM

THE END.